

# Adventures in Ionic Liquid Architecture

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City University of New York: Queensborough Community College*

# IONIC COMPOUNDS

- *Composed of + (cations) and - (anions)*
- *Ions have similar sizes and pack closely together into a crystal*
- *Generally thought to be high melting crystalline solids like NaCl which melts when heated above 800 °C (molten salt)*

Ionic lattice of  $\text{Na}^+$  cations and  $\text{Cl}^-$  anions.

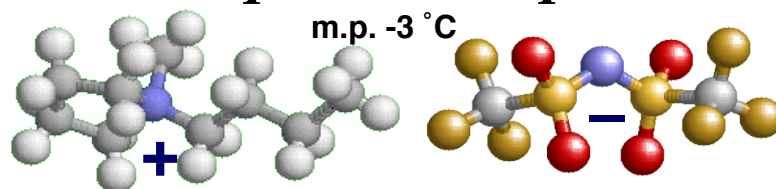
$$|\mathbf{F}| = k_e \frac{|q_1 q_2|}{r^2}$$

MP: 801 °C



NaCl (melts at 801 °C)

*Ionic liquids are liquid salts*

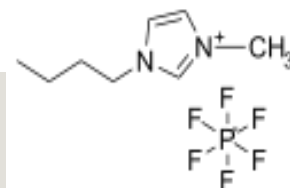
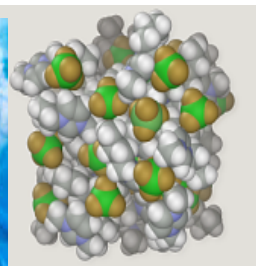


# *What are ionic liquids?*

- ❖ *Salts that are liquid at or near room temperature (< 100 °C)*

$$|\mathbf{F}| = k_e \frac{|q_1 q_2|}{r^2}$$

MP: 6.5



1--butyl-3-methylimidazolium  
hexafluorophosphate  
([BMIM]PF<sub>6</sub>)

- ❖ *Composed of bulky ions with low molecular symmetry*
- ❖ *Intentionally designed to make bad crystals and good liquids by mismatching the sizes of cations and anions*
- ❖ *Designer solvents- Can chemically modify ions and mix and match them as needed to give the desired properties*

# Ionic Liquids – “Extreme Solvents”

Electrostatic attraction is still strong enough to make vapor pressure  $\sim 0$ .

If it can't evaporate, it can't burn.

Combine specific ions to give desired properties.

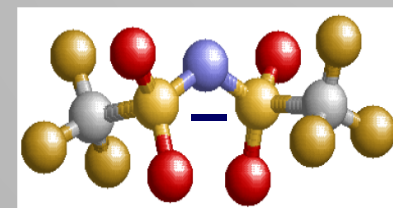
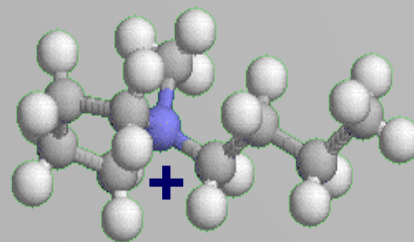
Control solubility of solids and liquids:

Phase separation (like oil and water).

Easy separation of products.

Make liquid easy to reuse/recycle.

- Inherently safer.
- More economical.
- Less environmentally burdensome.

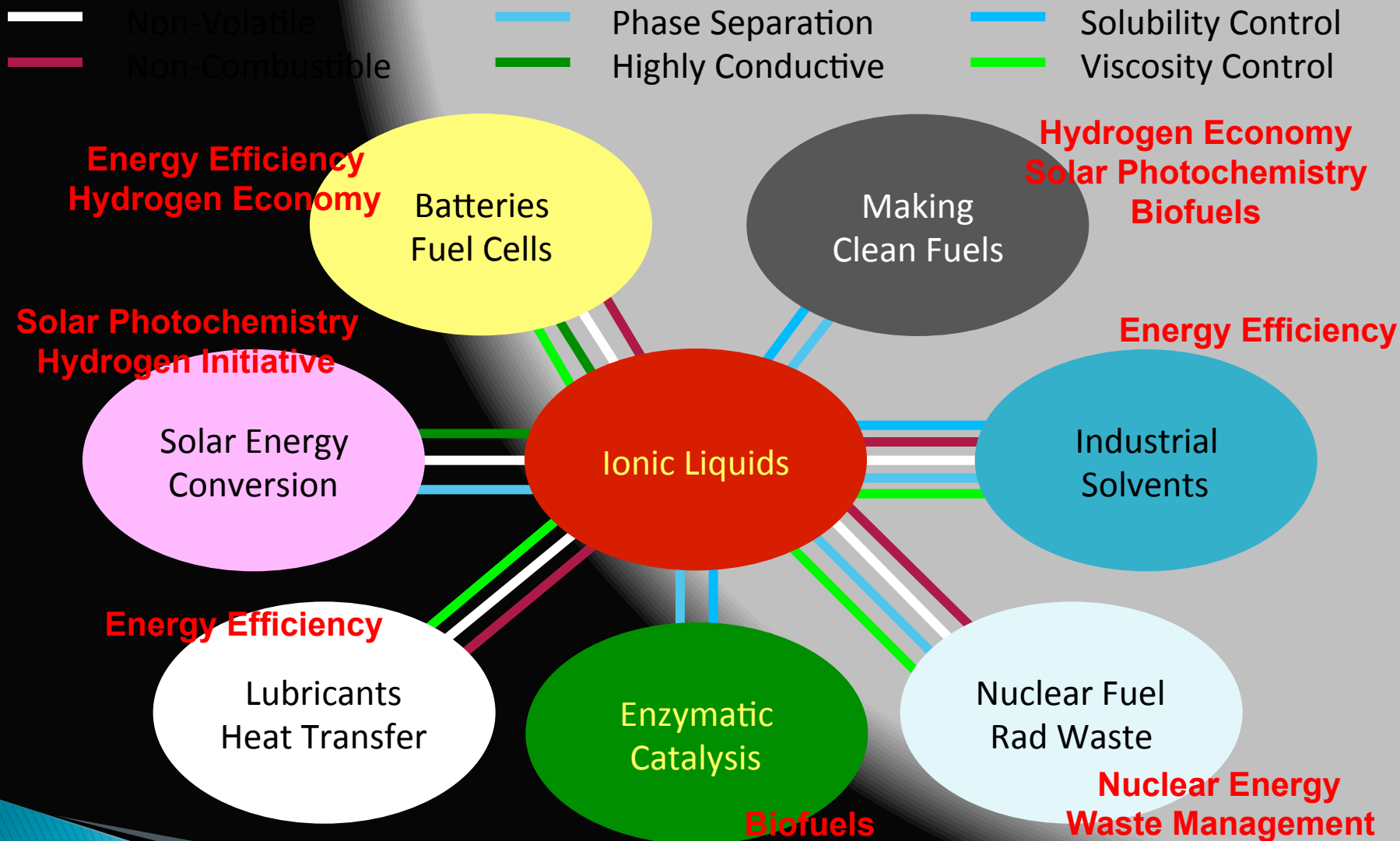


- Ionic liquid properties lie at the edge of or beyond those of normal liquids.
- Wide Electrochemical range ( $\leq 6$  V)
- Wide Liquid range ( $\leq 250^\circ$  C)
- Very low vapor pressure
- Viscosity (higher than normal)
- Dissolve polar, non-polar, biopolymers
- Intrinsically conductive

**Ionic liquids provide a path to new science and technology.**

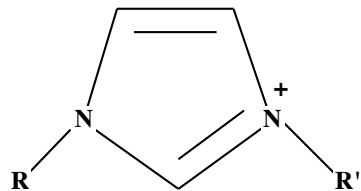


# Ionic Liquids and Energy: Designer Solvents for a Sustainable World

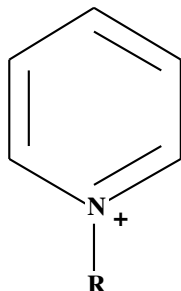


# Chemical Makeup of Common Ionic Liquids

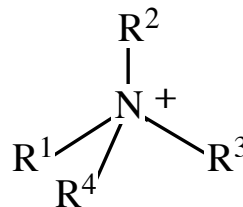
## Cations



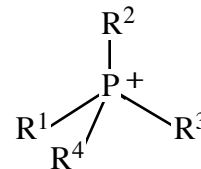
*N-alkyl-N'-alkyl'-imidazolium*



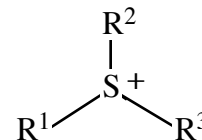
*N-alkyl-Pyridinium*



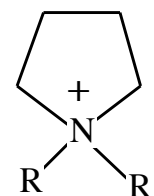
*Tetraalkyl-ammonium*



*Tetraalkyl-phosphonium*



*Trialkylsulfonium*



*N-alkyl-N-alkyl'-pyrrolidinium*

## Anions

➤ *Tetrachloroaluminate*  $[\text{AlCl}_4]^-$

➤ *Tetrafluoroborate*  $[\text{BF}_4]^-$

➤ *Hexafluorophosphate*  $[\text{PF}_6]^-$

➤ *Chloride*  $\text{Cl}^-$

➤ *Others:*  $\text{CF}_3\text{CO}_2^-$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2^-$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{SO}_3^-$

➤ *Bis(trifluoromethanesulfonyl)imide*



➤ *Trifluoromethanesulfonate*  $[\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3]^-$

➤ *Dicyanamide*  $[(\text{CN})_2\text{N}]^-$

# Beginning collaborations with BNL

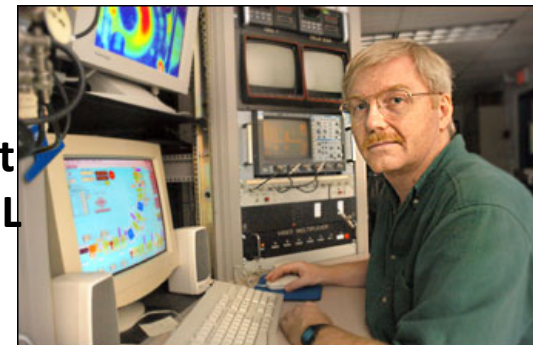
## Polycations. Part X. LIPs, a new category of room temperature ionic liquid based on polyammonium salts

Sharon I. Lall, Danny Mancheno, Steve Castro, Valbona Behaj, JaimeLee Iolani Cohen and Robert Engel\*

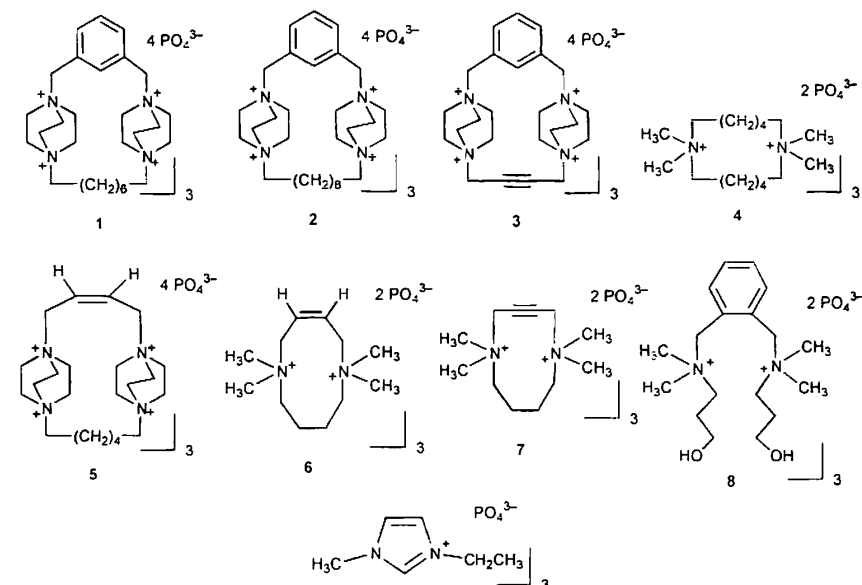
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Queens College of the City University of New York, 65-30 Kissena Boulevard, Flushing, NY 11367, USA. E-mail: robert\_engel@qc.edu



Robert Engel



James Wishart  
Chemistry, BNL



*Chem. Commun.*, 2000, 2413–2414

- My first publication on Ionic Liquids
- This paper caught the attention of BNL scientist: Dr. James Wishart
- He invited us to a meeting at BNL in January 2001

# *Continued collaborating at BNL as a graduate student*

- Spent 1–2 nights in the BNL dorms a few times during the semester/ winter: Made designer ILs to order; published a paper



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Radiation Physics and Chemistry 72 (2005) 99–104

**Radiation Physics  
and  
Chemistry**

[www.elsevier.com/locate/radphyschem](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/radphyschem)

## Effects of functional group substitution on electron spectra and solvation dynamics in a family of ionic liquids

James F. Wishart<sup>a,\*</sup>, Sharon I. Lall-Ramnarine<sup>b</sup>, Ravinder Raju<sup>b</sup>,  
Alexander Scumpia<sup>b</sup>, Sherly Bellevue<sup>b</sup>, Revans Ragbir<sup>b</sup>, Robert Engel<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*Chemistry Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY 11973, USA*

<sup>b</sup>*Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Queens College and the Graduate School of the City University of New York,  
65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing, NY 11367, USA*

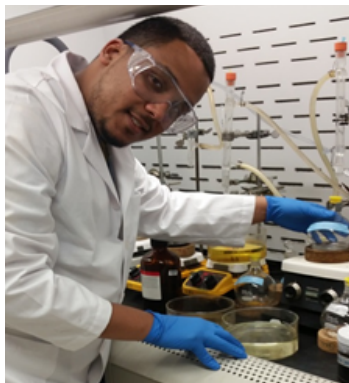
Received 30 November 2003; accepted 22 December 2003

# *Research Focus*

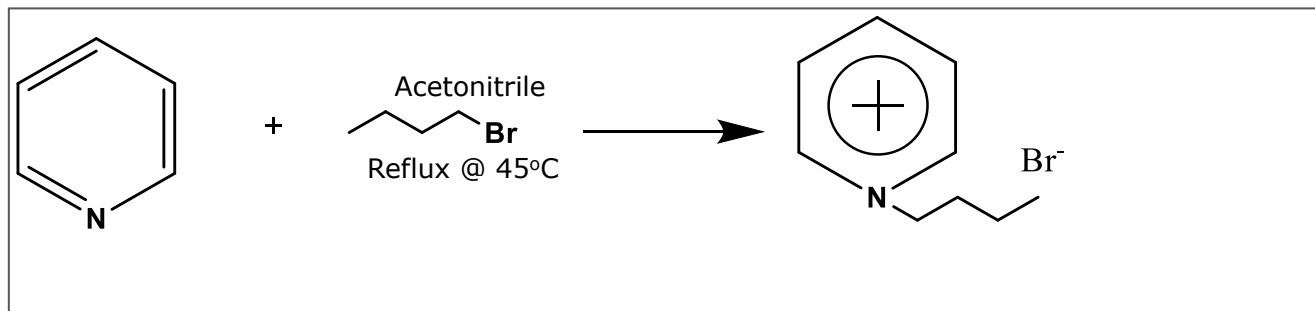
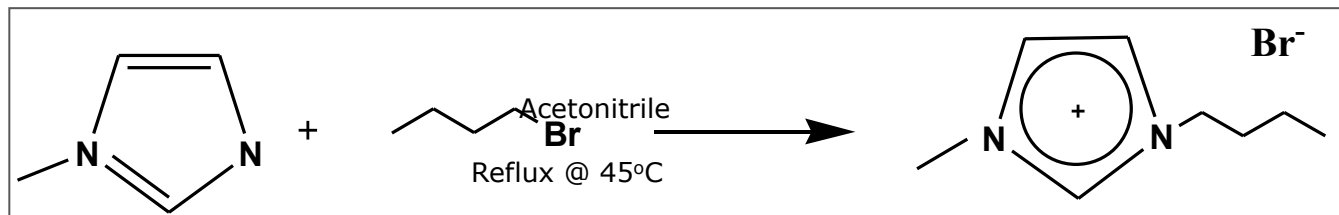
- Synthesize structurally unique ionic liquids
- Investigate their physical properties
- Correlate structure with function so that physical properties can be predicted from structure
- Design or manipulate the structure of the IL to provide desired properties
- **Design ILs for sustainable energy applications (batteries, Supercapacitors, Nuclear fuel reprocessing, Solar Energy conversion) and probing the nanostructure of ILs through collaboration**
- **ILs for cellulose dissolution: Pretreatment for biofuel production**
- Investigate toxicity properties and correlate toxicity with structure
- Biodegradation of ILs



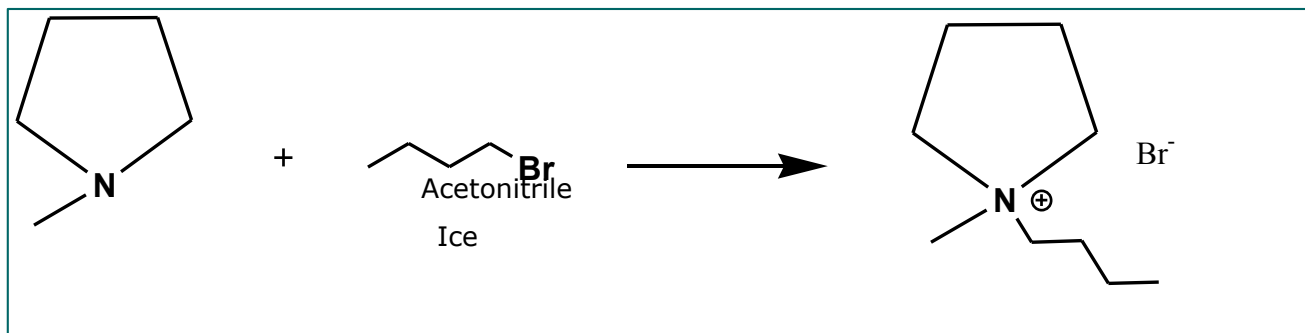
# Synthesis of cations in ILs



Rahonel Fernandez



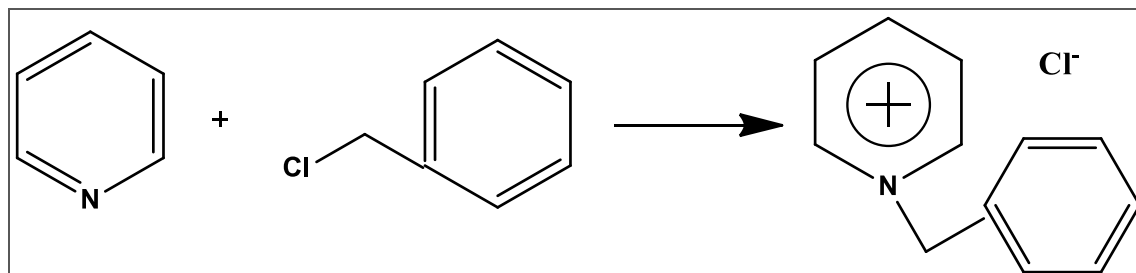
Chanele Rodriguez



# Synthesis of functionalized cations for ILs



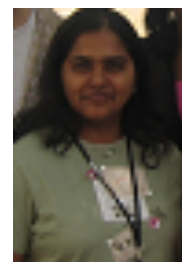
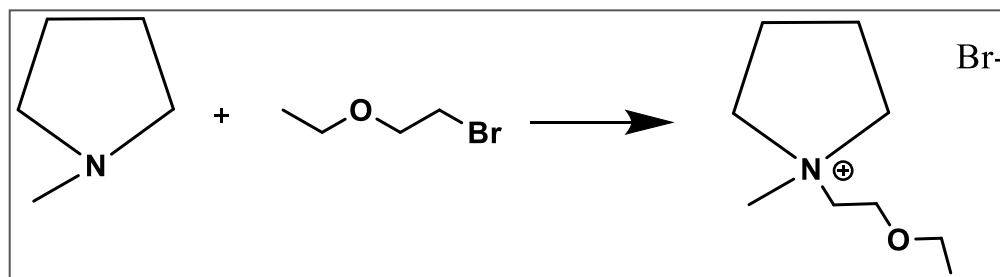
Sofiya Penkhasova



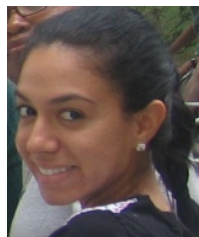
Heidi Martinez



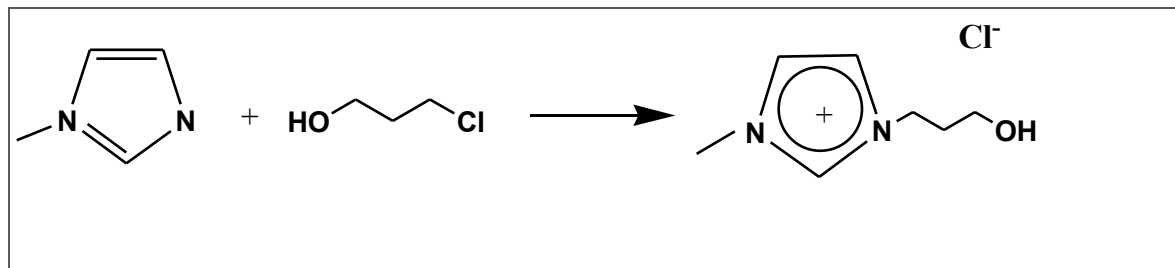
Vanessa Hernandez



Annu Ipe



Katherine Johnson



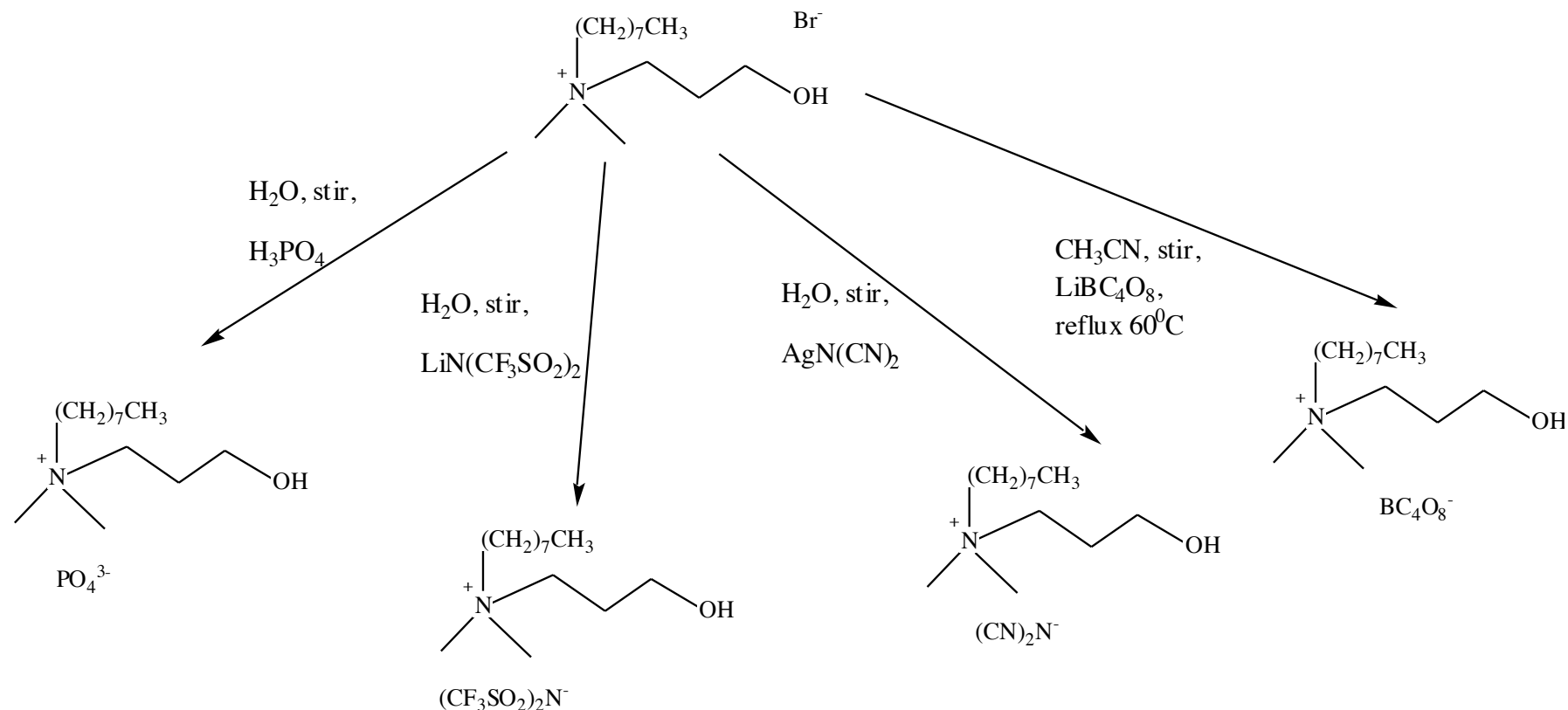
Carolyn Spence

# Microwave synthesis of cations



- Allows for fast and efficient synthesis with minimum use of solvent
- Minimizes Waste
- Reactants are volatile, product salt is not.  
Pressure can be used to gauge progress of the reaction.

# Reaction scheme for synthesizing ionic liquids from a halide salt precursor



*S. Lall et. al, J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun., 2413 (2000)*

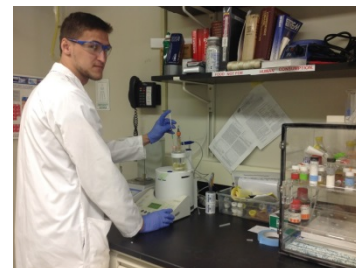
*S. Lall et. al. Synthesis, 11, 1530-1540 (2002)*

*J. Wishart, S. Lall-Ramnarine, et. al, Radiat. Phys. Chem. 72, 99-104 (2005 )*



# Purification of ILs

- ▶ Washing with ethylacetate, diethylether, acetonitrile
- ▶ Activated charcoal if colorless ILs are desired
- ▶ Testing for and removing residual halide ( $\text{AgNO}_3$  and washing with water)
- ▶ Testing for and removing residual water (KF Titrator, TGA and drying in vac. oven)
- ▶ Structures are confirmed using H-1, C-13 and P-31 NMR





# Physical properties investigated

- ▶ Viscosity
- ▶ Conductivity
- ▶ Thermal profile
- ▶ Radiolytic properties



## ► Cations



# Nicole Zmich

# Physical properties of DMAP versus pyridinium NTf<sub>2</sub> ILs

Cation	Glass transition onset, °C	Melting point °C	Degradation onset, °C	Viscosity, cP, 25 °C	Conductivity, mS/cm 25 °C
C <sub>4</sub> DMAP	-70	27	444	85	2.2
C <sub>4</sub> Py	-81	24	388	60	2.2
C <sub>2</sub> OC <sub>2</sub> DMAP	-67	None	422	105	1.8
C <sub>2</sub> OC <sub>2</sub> Py	-80	-18	380	57	2.5

The glass transition temperatures of the DMAP ILs are higher than the pyridinium ILs, making the DMAP viscosities higher as well.

However DMAP salts exhibited higher thermal stabilities and could potentially be useful for high temperature applications

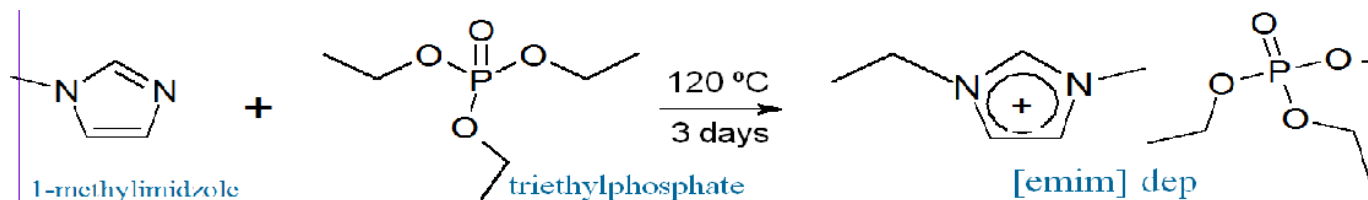
# ILs for Pretreatment of cellulose: Biofuel production



Samanta Boursiquot



Firmause Payen

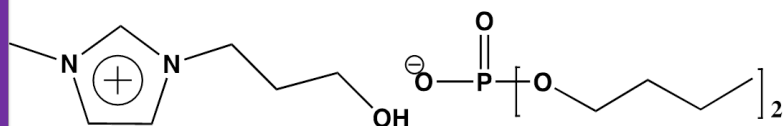


Mariyam Jalees

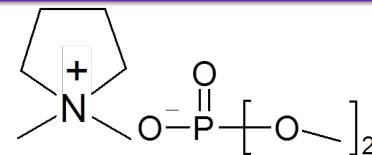


Alicia Romero

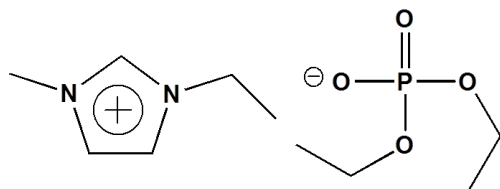
# ***Biofuels: Bioconversion of lignocellulose to ethanol and butanol facilitated by ionic liquid preprocessing***



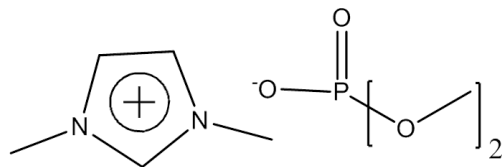
1-(3-hydroxypropyl)-3-methylimidazolium  
dibutyl phosphate – [C<sub>3</sub>OHmim] dbp



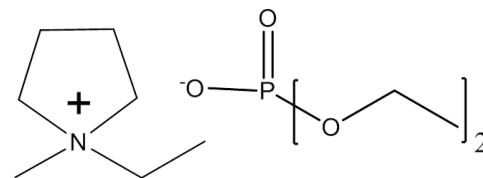
*N,N*-dimethyl pyrrolidinium dimethyl  
phosphate – [mmPyr] dmp



1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium  
diethyl phosphate – [emim] dep



1,3-dimethylimidazolium dimethyl  
phosphate – [mmim] dmp



*N*-ethyl-*N*-methyl pyrrolidinium  
diethyl phosphate – [emPyr] dep

- DAPs can be made halide free in one step and are cheaper than acetate ILs
- Emim DEP dissolved up to 24 wt. % cellulose at 130 °C
- Cellulose is regenerated by adding water to the IL; the IL is recovered by evaporating the water
- DAP ILs dissolve cellulose by breaking up the recalcitrant H-bonded network
- DAPs support enzyme stability and are less toxic to bacteria than other ILs
- DAPs are suitable for the pretreatment of lignocellulose and would not impede enzyme saccharification into sugars and bacterial fermentation into alcohols or biofuels.

\$1.6 M BNL LDRD 2008–2010



# *Biofuels: Physical properties of dialkylphosphate ILs*

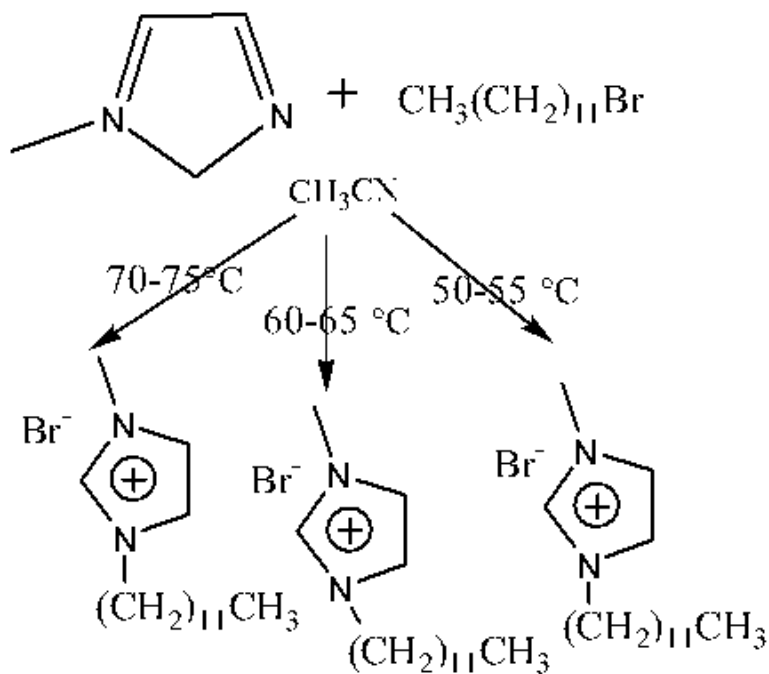
Ionic Liquid	Melting point (°C)	Glass Transition (°C)	Viscosity (20 °C) (cP)	Density (23°C) (g/mL)	Degradation Point (°C)	Water Content (ppm)
[mmPyrr] dmp	63	-88		solid	231	806
[emim] dep	21	-69	394 @ 26 ° C	1.18	260	333
[emPyrr] dep	Not observed	- 73		1.13	242	511
[mmim] dmp <sup>4</sup>	-	-	363	1.26	263	
[bmim] dbp	-	-	1896	1.04	257	
[C <sub>3</sub> OHmim] dbp	Not observed	-68	5878	1.11	248	133

The pyrrolidinium DAPs are more viscous and less thermally stable than the imidazolium DAPs.

# Effect of temperature variation on purity and toxicity



Xing Li



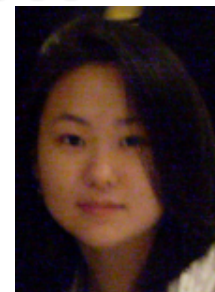
C12MIM Br



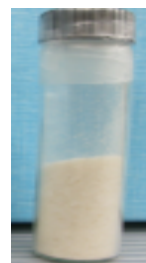
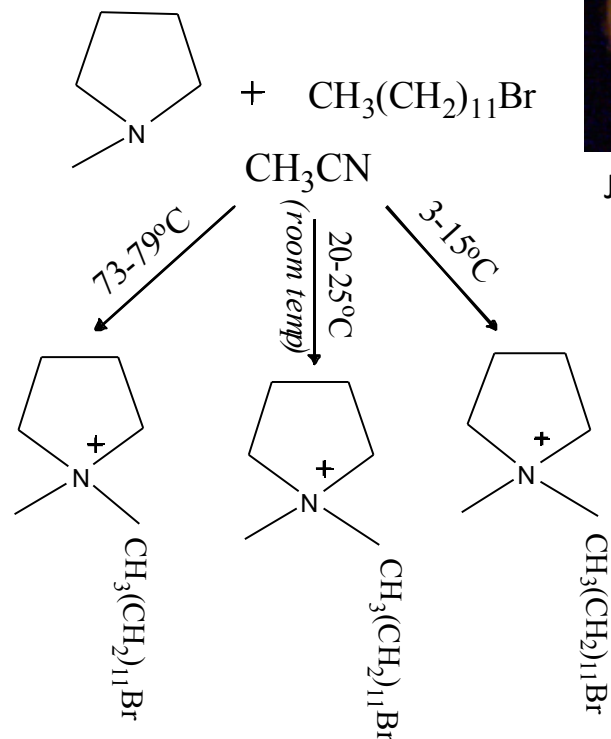
C12MIM Br



C12MIM Br



JinHee Gwon



P1,12Br

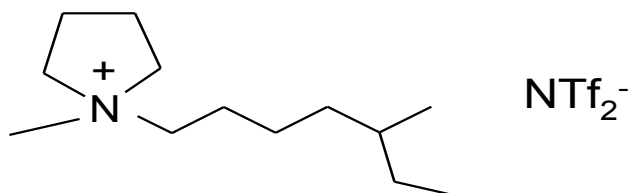


P1,12Br

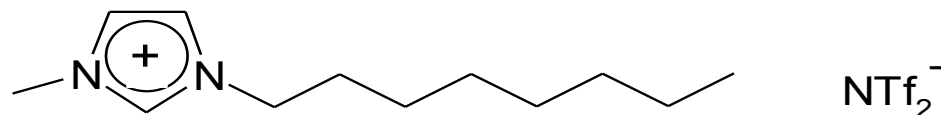
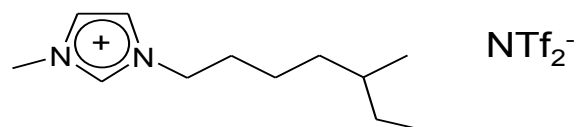
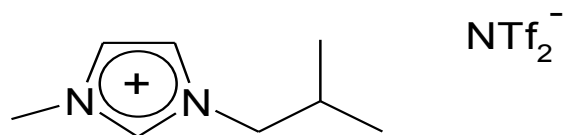


P1,12Br

# Effect of alkyl chain branching on IL properties



Sharon Ramati

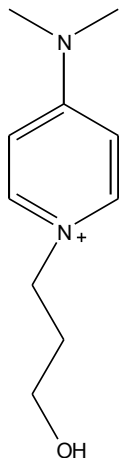


Preliminary result: branched IL much more viscous than linear IL  
Branched 8C chain IL behaves like the 6C chain IL

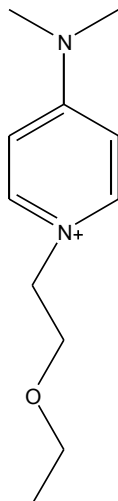
# Tuning IL properties by structural variation



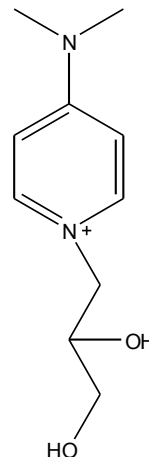
Jasmine Hatcher



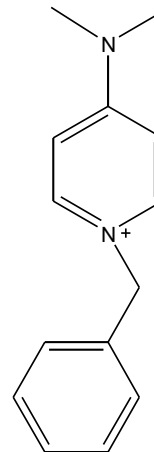
DMAPC3OH



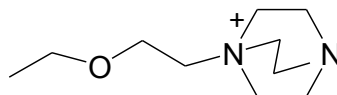
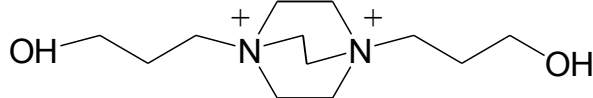
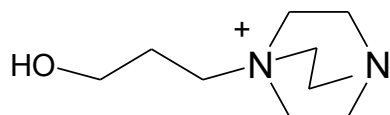
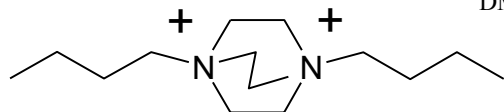
DMAPEOE



DMAP C3(OH)<sub>2</sub>



DMAP BEN



Kijana Kerr

M. Thomas, L. Rothman, J. Hatcher, P. Agarkar, R. Ramkirath, S. Lall-Ramnarine, and R. Engel, "Synthesis and Thermochemical properties of Stereoisomeric Dihydroxy- and Tetrahydroxyammonium Salts," *Synthesis*, 1437–1444 (2009).



# Binary mixtures of ILs for Energy Storage Devices

## Ionic Liquids in Supercapacitors



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### Supercapacitors to the rescue



They call it the Bad Dreamliner because the new Boeing jet has been beset with electrical problems. When new, the Airbus A380 also had electrical problems but they were caught at an early stage. This time it has been more dramatic. In one instance a fire raged in the belly of a Boeing 787 parked at Logan International Airport in the USA. Flames were doused that emanated

from the lithium-ion battery compartment. Investigations continue to determine the precise origin of that problem but the air industry is acutely aware that lithium-ion batteries have caused extreme incidents before.

- Supercapacitors are electrochemical storage devices capable of providing high power levels in very short pulses for long periods of time.

- Recently a Boeing Dreamliner plane caught fire because the Li ion Battery overheated.

- Consumers are looking at supercapacitors as safer energy storage devices.

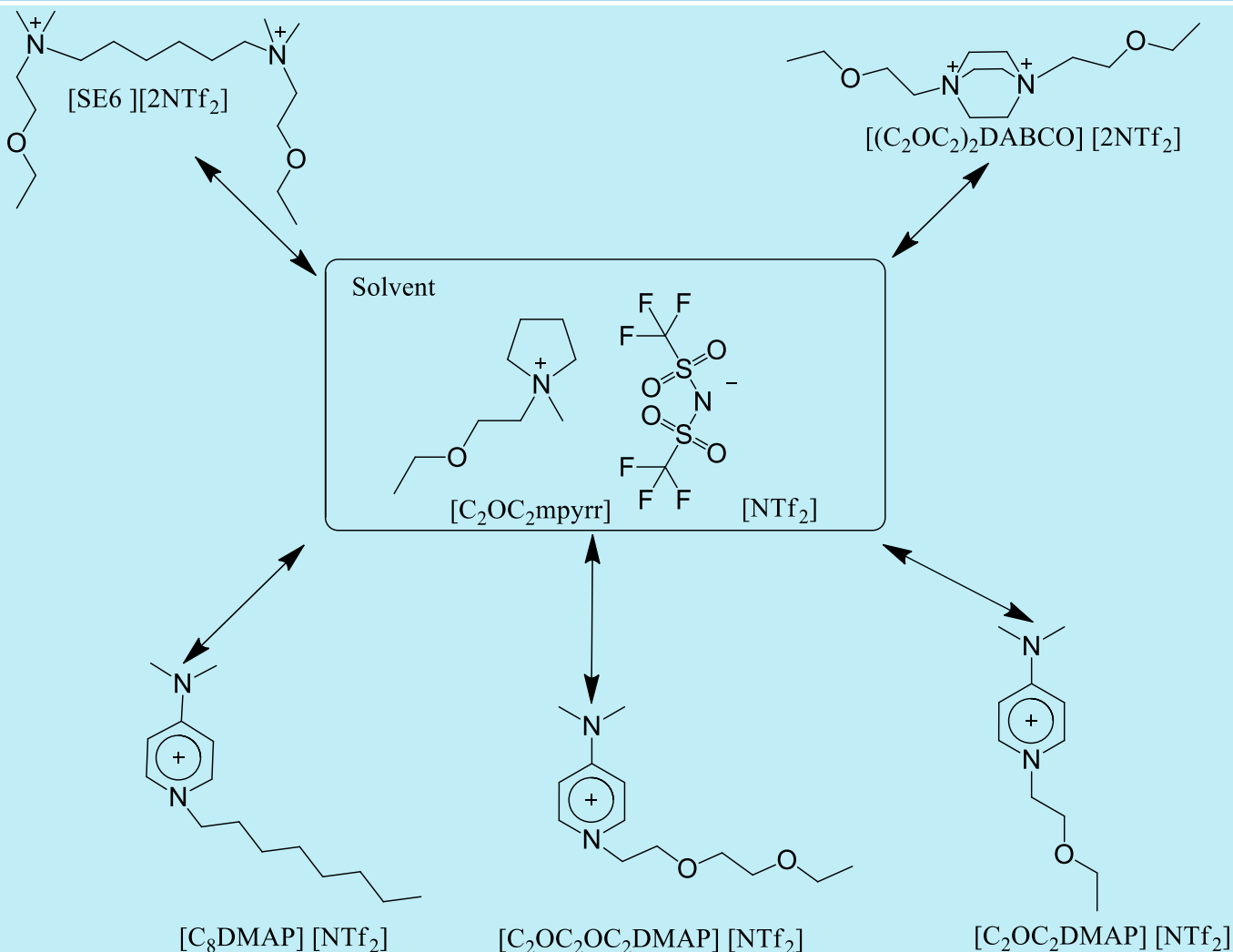
- Traditional electrolyte: organic solvent (Acetonitrile) with a salt dissolved in it. Flammable

- ILS to the rescue – Binary mixtures allow for an extension of the useful properties of ILs

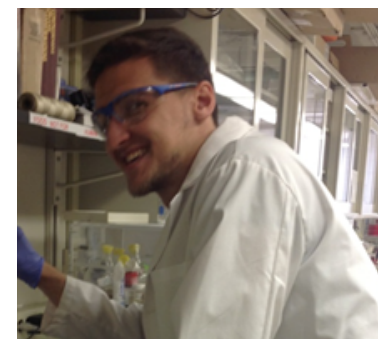
\$30 K CUNY Collaborative Grant with Brooklyn College



# Binary mixtures of ILs for Energy Storage Devices



Emely Rosario

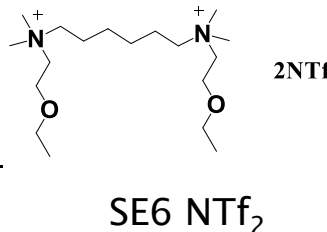


Damian Ewko

S. Lall-Ramnarine, S. Suarez, N. Zmich, S. Ramati, D. Ewko, D. Cuffari, M. Sahin, Y. Adam, E. Rosario, D. Paterno and J. Wishart, Binary Ionic Liquid Mixtures for Supercapacitor Applications. *Journal of Electrochemical Society Transactions*, 2014: 64(4): 57-69

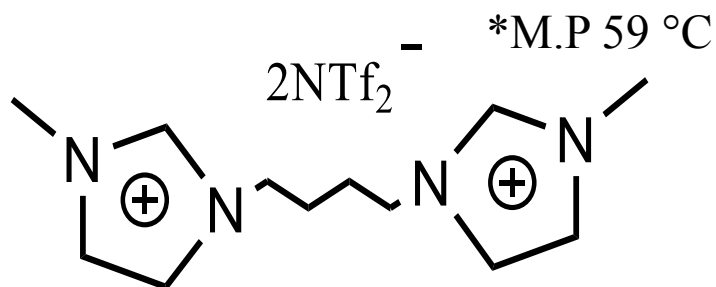
# Binary mixtures of ILs for Energy Storage Devices

Physical properties of the NTf<sub>2</sub> salts and mixtures.

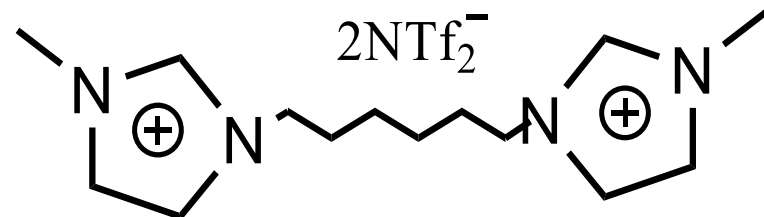
Cation(s)	Glass Transition Point, $T_g^{[a]}$ °C	Melting Point, $T_m^{[a]}$ °C	Degradation Temp, $T_d^{[a]}$ °C	Density, g/mL 23 °C	Conductivity mS/cm, 25 °C	Viscosity Cp 25 °C	
C2OC2mPyrr	-91	<sup>[b]</sup>	385	1.41	3.4	53	SE6 NTf <sub>2</sub>
SE6	-61	<sup>[b]</sup>	374	1.44	0.2	1582	
SE6 + C <sub>2</sub> OC <sub>2</sub> mPyrr	-88	<sup>[b]</sup>	384	1.4	2.6	73	
(C <sub>2</sub> OC <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> DABCO	<sup>[b]</sup>	119	292	<sup>[c]</sup>	-	-	
(C <sub>2</sub> OC <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> DABCO + C <sub>2</sub> OC <sub>2</sub> mPyrr	-88	<sup>[b]</sup>	377	1.41 <sup>[d]</sup>	8.9*	20	
C <sub>2</sub> OC <sub>2</sub> DMAP	-67	<sup>[b]</sup>	422	1.41	1.8	106	
C <sub>2</sub> OC <sub>2</sub> DMAP + C <sub>2</sub> OC <sub>2</sub> mPyrr	-90	<sup>[b]</sup>	393	1.41	3	57	
C <sub>8</sub> DMAP	-70	<sup>[b]</sup>	430	1.29	2.8	135	
C <sub>8</sub> DMAP + C <sub>2</sub> OC <sub>2</sub> mPyrr	-90	<sup>[b]</sup>	390	1.39	2.1	60	
C <sub>2</sub> OC <sub>2</sub> OC <sub>2</sub> DMAP	-65	<sup>[b]</sup>	399	1.37	2.1	110	
C <sub>2</sub> OC <sub>2</sub> OC <sub>2</sub> DMAP + C <sub>2</sub> OC <sub>2</sub> mPyrr	-89	<sup>[b]</sup>	393	1.38	2.7	59	

- Mixing ILs can extend their useful properties to greater limits
- The glass transition temperatures can be depressed extending the lower operating temperature limit of these IL systems
- Thermal decomposition temperatures can also be elevated by careful choice of the ions
- No enhancement in conductivity from binary mixtures containing dications, currently working on tailoring the composition of the mixtures

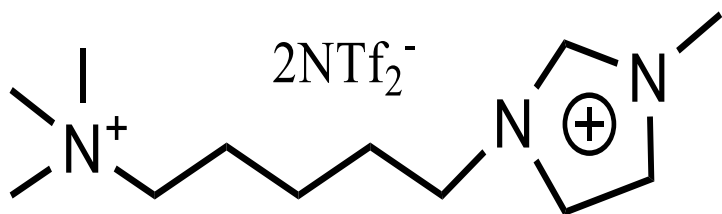
# Designing Asymmetric cations for binary IL mixtures



mim C4 mim NTf<sub>2</sub>



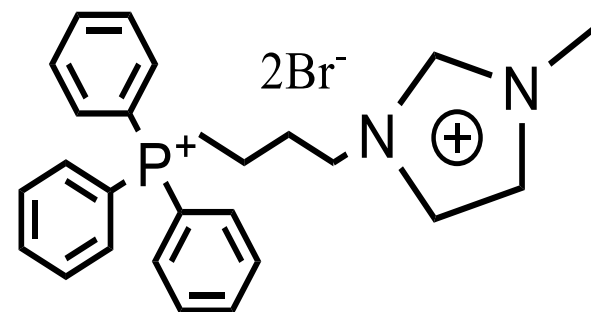
mim C6 mim NTf<sub>2</sub>



(me)<sub>3</sub>N<sup>+</sup> C<sub>5</sub> mim NTf<sub>2</sub>



Eddie Fernandez



Ph<sub>3</sub>P<sup>+</sup> C<sub>4</sub> mim Br<sub>2</sub>

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**QUEENSBOROUGH CUNY**  
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***Department of Energy (Brookhaven National Lab)***

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***CUNY ENERGY INSTITUTE***



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### Exploring the Effect of Structural Modification on the Physical Properties of Various Ionic Liquids

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### Synthesis, characterization and radiolytic properties of bis(oxalato)borate containing ionic liquids

Sharon I. Lall-Ramnarine<sup>a</sup>, Alejandra Castano<sup>b</sup>, Gopal Subramaniam<sup>b</sup>, Marie F. Thomas<sup>b,c</sup>, James F. Wishart<sup>c,\*</sup>

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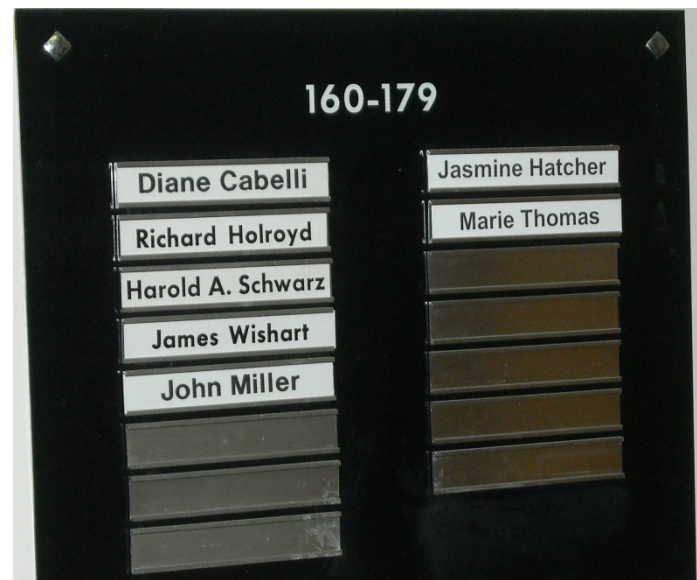
## Exploring the Effect of Structural Modification on the Physical Properties of Various Ionic Liquids

Sharon I. Lall-Ramnarine,<sup>a</sup> Jasmine L. Hatcher,<sup>b</sup> Alejandra Castano,<sup>c</sup> Marie F. Thomas,<sup>b</sup> and James F. Wishart.<sup>b</sup>

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Synthesis 2009, No. 9, 1437–1444

### Synthesis and Thermochemical Properties of Stereoisomeric Dihydroxy- and Tetrahydroxyalkylammonium Salts

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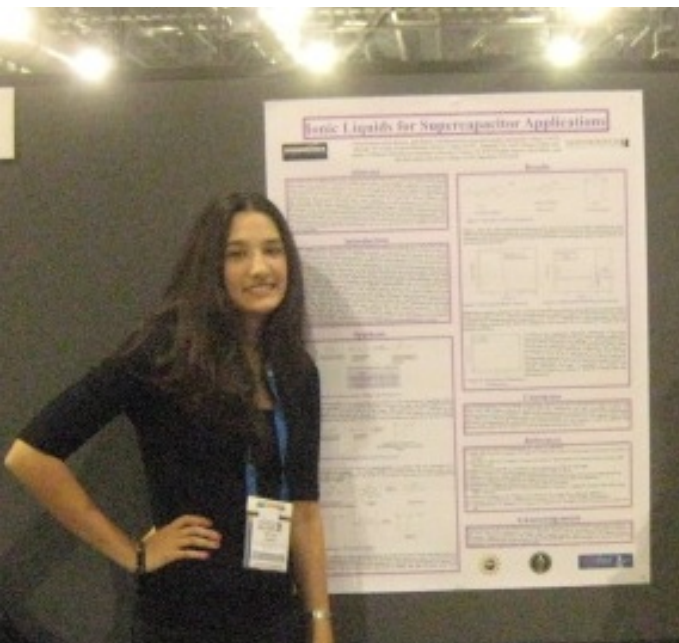
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## Binary Ionic Liquid Mixtures for Supercapacitor Applications

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Probing the Physical Properties, Synthesis and Cellulose Dissolution Ability of

### Dialkyl Phosphate Ionic Liquids

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PAYEN<sup>a</sup>, Samanta BOURSQUOT<sup>a</sup>, Sharon RAMATI<sup>b</sup>, Damian EWKO<sup>a</sup>, Nicole V.

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reviewed papers*

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Xu, Fan	4317	301
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Yu, Hua-Gen	4367	312
Yu, Yidong	4992	388
Zhang Yu	4679	322
Zhou, Yongning	4142	328
Zmich, Nicole	8367	162

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# Current group at BNL

